

HARMONY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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"Living Together in Harmony"

MINUTES

HARMONY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

11 March 2003

Present: Karen Buckley, Tim Sullivan, Abigail Crouse, Bill Rosebrock, Dave Bruckman, Harry A. Cosimano, and Brett Bragin

RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING

I. Opening:

Meeting opened in accordance with the Sunshine Law and Pledge of Allegiance at 1935 hours.

II. Nominations:

Chairperson- Karen Buckley was appointed as Chairperson by Mayor Jim Hutchinson. She opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairperson and Secretary.

Vice-Chairman- Tim Sullivan was nominated for vice-chairperson. Motion seconded. All were in favor.

Secretary- Brett Bragin was nominated as secretary. Motion seconded. All were in favor.

III. Other Business:

A) Notice of the scheduled dates for Environmental Commission meetings for 2003 will be advertised in the Free Press newspaper.

B) The regular meeting date for the Harmony Township Environmental Commission will continue to be the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The remaining meeting dates for 2003 will be;

April 8 th	September 9 th
May 13 th	October 14 th
June 10 th	November 11 th
July 8 th	December 9 th
August 12 th	January 13, 2004

Exceptions to the schedule above may require a change in the April meeting date, which may be changed to April 22nd.

C) A copy of the Harmony Township Stormwater management Ordinance of 1979, and Ordinance 94-3 (Limestone Ordinance) was distributed to all Commission members. Additionally, a copy of the Warren County sludge health and environment task force "Reviews of Sludge Issues, Warren County, New Jersey, dated September 1999 was distributed to all Commission members.

REGULAR MEETING

I. Opening:

The regular meeting of the Harmony Township Environmental Commission was opened in accordance with the Sunshine Law at 1945 hrs.

II. Minutes: As there were no Environmental Commission meetings in the months prior to the March 2003 meeting, there were no minutes to review.

III. Old Business:

A) As there were no Environmental Commission meetings in the months prior to the March 2003 meeting, there was no “old business” to discuss.

IV. New Business:

A) Unified Environmental Services Group, LLC - The Hydropress Environmental Services Inc. sludge processing facility has recently been acquired by Unified Environmental Services Group, LLC. Unified made a presentation before the Township Committee on March 4th, 2003. At that meeting, the following information was presented;

Unified's intention is to continue mixing sludge with coal ash, although not utilizing the patented N-Viro process. Unified will also seek to gain NJDEP approval to mix screened leaves with this product, resulting in a new "topsoil blend." Unified had already started to produce this product, but was ordered by NJDEP to stop, since there was no permit for same. The source of coal ash is Gladfelter Paper of Spring Grove PA. This is the same source that was used by Hydropress. The intended destinations include the Hackensack Meadowlands, which has secured approvals for the installation of 4 golf courses; athletic fields, including those in Harmony; a topsoil blending operation in South Jersey. They intend to reduce volume from 110 dry tons/day to around 80 tons. This is "dry weight" of incoming sludge. The most recent stack emissions testing was conducted in 2000. Title to the real estate may not have changed hands as yet. This is an industrial warehouse/office building on 20 acres. An environmental assessment is or was being performed as part of the title transfer. This assessment does not involve groundwater testing, only soil testing. The Harmony Township Committee is asking for a public hearing on the permit renewals. The facility required Air and Solid Waste permits. The Air permit was revoked by NJDEP a while back and replaced with an Administrative Consent Order (ACO), which is still in effect. The Solid Waste permit simply expired, and a renewal permit is pending.

The latest Unified Environmental Services Quarterly Report (to NJDEP), dated October 2002 through December 2002 was circulated, reviewed and discussed. The Environmental Commission formulated a list of questions/concerns that we have regarding the re-opening of this facility. Karen will put these in a letter to both the NJDEP and the Township Commission.

B) Dowel Associates Proposed “River Walk” (Block 37 Lot 4) - Dowel Assoc. is expected to submit an application to the Planning Board for this proposed development, which is the result of a Mount Laurel “builders remedy” lawsuit that the Township lost to Dowel Associates in 1990. The proposed development would construct 315 units (137 single family, 42 “village green”, and 136 “patio homes” with associated internal roadways and 2 large detention basins) on this 185 acre tract. Environmental Commission members received a copy of the first half of the Environmental Impact Statement and Inventory Report, prepared by Trident Environmental Consultants (dated February 27, 2003), for this proposed development. Commission members were asked to review this report and provide comments/questions at the April meeting.

The Township’s Council On Affordable Housing (COAH) requirements were discussed, along with the background of this development.

V. Correspondence:

None

There being no further business, the March meeting of the Harmony Township Environmental Commission was adjourned at 2013 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Brett Bragin, Secretary